



Lt. Governor Skillman Celebrates the State's First Zero Emissions Library

Last week I celebrated with Hoosiers in southwest Indiana. We are proud of the state's first zero emissions library, and I presented a Partner In Progress award to the Chrisney Library. We have many treasures among our small town libraries. But the town of Chrisney, Indiana, - population just over 500 – is leading the way on a hot topic.

They are a trendsetters in one of the hottest areas out there – renewable energy. In April of last year, the Chrisney Library became the first “net zero” library in Indiana. The branch uses solar energy and geothermal technology for its energy needs. The use of these renewable sources of energy has brought their monthly energy costs down to zero. And, in fact, they can sell unused energy back to the utility providers.



Lt. Gov. Skillman at University of Southern Indiana recognizes the state's first zero emissions library, the Chrisney Library in Chrisney, Ind., with library representatives.

The state was happy to partner in this project. Two of the state offices I oversee gave grants to help fund the library. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs awarded the town a \$447,000 grant for the project, and our Office of Energy Development kicked in an additional \$24,000 for the solar panel pavilion. The town raised \$80,000 to complete the project. And on top of that, they have committed to help staff the library for the first two years to minimize operating costs.

At the state level, we are making unprecedented strides in the area of energy independence and clean energy. Since 2005, we have gone from one biofuel plant to fifteen. In the last two years, we have gone from zero wind farms to thirteenth in the nation – producing enough wind energy each year to power 250,000 homes and

we're just getting started. And we have clean coal plants on the way.

But to complete our push to make Indiana a leader in the next generation of energy, we need communities like Chrisney leading the way, taking initiative, and producing gems like the Chrisney Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Skillman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Interested in learning more about the work of Lt. Governor Skillman?
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